

Remarks

Claims 9-17 remain in this application. Claim 2 was previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-8, and 18-21 are hereby canceled without prejudice to facilitate issuance of a notice of allowance on the remaining claims. Claim 9 is hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Original claim 21 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Base (independent) claim 9 is now amended so as to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claim 21. There are no intervening claims. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 9 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 10-17 depend from claim 9. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-17 are also now in condition for allowance.

Since the limitations of claim 21 are now incorporated into claim 9, claim 21 is now canceled.

Conclusion

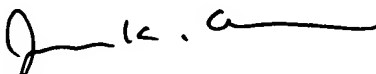
For the above-discussed reasons, applicants respectfully submit that all remaining claims are now in form for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is also invited to call the below-referenced attorney to discuss this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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